State of Washington
Windows 2000 Server Pilot

Active Directory Services for Legacy Windows Clients

February 29, 2000

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Windows 9x and Windows NT 4-based clients lack many of the features of Windows 2000 Professional that are related to the Active Directory service. Microsoft has developed extensions for the Windows 95, 98 and Windows NT 4 operating systems that allow those client platforms to take advantage of features provided by the Active Directory service. These client extensions enable administrators to deploy Windows 2000 Server in environments with Windows 95, 98 and Windows NT 4-based client workstations.

Functionality provided by Active Directory Extensions

The Active Directory client extension is an upgrade or patch for Windows 95, 98 and Windows NT 4, which enables the following Active Directory features:

Site Awareness

- Capability to log on to the Domain Controller that is closest to the client in the network.

- Ability to change password on any Windows 2000 Domain Controller, instead of the PDC.

Active Directory Services Interface (ADSI)

- Allows scripting to Active Directory.

- Provides a common programming API to Active Directory programmers.

DFS Fault Tolerance Client

- Provides access to Windows 2000 distributed file system fault tolerant and fail-over file shares specified in the Active Directory.

Active Directory Windows Address Book (WAB) property pages

- Allows users who have permission to change properties on user objects (for example, phone number and address) via the user object pages, which can be accessed by clicking the Start menu, and then pointing to Search and For People.

- Support for display specifiers that allow rendering of new schema elements stored on the user object in Active Directory.

NT LAN Manager version 2 Authentication

- Takes advantage of the improved authentication features available in NT Lan Manager version 2.

- Significant architectural advancements have been made in the Windows 2000 Professional client platform. They deliver functionality that the Active Directory client extensions on Windows 9x and Windows NT 4 cannot deliver. Users can take advantage of these additional capabilities by upgrading to Windows 2000 Professional.

Functionality not provided by Active Directory Extensions

No Kerberos Support

- The Active Directory client extension does not deliver Kerberos support to Windows 9x and Windows NT 4-based clients.

No Group Policy or Intellimirror Support

- The Active Directory client extension does not deliver Intellimirror or Windows 2000 Group Policy functionality. Policy support for Windows NT 4.0–based clients is provided by using Windows NT 4.0–style administrative templates (.adm files) and Windows NT 4.0 System Policy Editor (Poledit.exe) files. For information about installing the System Policy Editor, see Windows 2000 Server Help. The System Policy Editor is included with Windows 2000 Server but is not included with Windows 2000 Professional. The Windows 2000 Optional Administrative Tools package (Adminpak.msi), which includes the System Policy Editor, comes on the Windows 2000 Server companion CD for installation onto computers running Windows 2000 Professional.

No IPSEC or L2TP Support

- The Active Directory client extension does not deliver advanced Virtual Private Networking (VPN) protocols.

No Service Principal Name (SPN) or Mutual Authentication

- The Active Directory client extension does not deliver SPN or mutual authentication.

Where to Find the Software

Windows 95- and 98-based Active Directory Client will be distributed on the Windows 2000 CD. Windows NT 4.0-based Active Directory Client will be distributed on the Windows NT 4 SP7 CD. There is no published release date for SP7 at this time.